(a) whether consumer items available in Kendriya Bhandar particularly in Delhi are substandard and the prices thereof are higher as compared to the market price;

(b) whether the Government have received complaints during the last three years in this regard;

(c) if so, the number thereof; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the quality of consumer items and also excess price in all the branches of Kendriya Bhandar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SH. S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) All the goods packed by the Kendriya Bhandar are released for sale only after pre-testing. Goods are also tested after lifting them at random from the stores. Kendriya Bhandar's quality control Department also investigates all complaints in regard to quality of goods on sale. It is, thus, not correct that Kendriya Bhandar sells substandard goods.

As regards prices, Kendriya Bhandar adds small mark-up to cover its overheads. Its prices are, therefore, generally lower than the market prices.

(b) and (c) The number of complaints/suggestions received by Kendriya Bhandar during the last 3 years in regard to quality are as under:-

Year	Numbers
1994-95	26
1995-96	23
1996-97	5

No complaint regarding prices has been received during the above period in Kendriya Bhandar.

(d): The steps taken by the Kndriya Bhandar as indicated vide answer to part (a) adequately ensure control on the quality as well as the prices of consumer items on sale in its various stores.

[English]

Leksell Gamma Knife

2363. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Leksell gamma knife has been installed at AIIMS, New Delhi to undertake brain surgery without opening the skull;

(b) if so, the cost of the above gamma knife;

(c) the average number of brain surgeries being performed every year at NIMHANS Bangalore; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to procure Leksell gamma knife for NIMHANS, Bangalore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The cost of Leksell Gamma Knife is Rs. 12.64 crores.

(c) On an average 1500 brain surgeries are performed every year at NIMHANS, Bangalore.

(d) The Institute have projected the requirement of Leksell Gamma Knife in the 9th Five Year Plan.

[Translation]

Health Melas

2364. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Health Melas organised by the Government during the year 1996-97;

(b) the number of such Melas organised in Uttar Pradesh;

(c) the number of melas out of them organised by Government and Non-Government Organisations, separately and the locations thereof;

(d) the funds utilised for organising Melas in Uttar Pradesh;

(e) whether any specific conditions have been laid down to organise such Melas through Non-Government Organisations; and

(f) the number of Melas organised by (i) Indian Medical Association (ii) Rotary/Lions Club (iii) Indian Red Cross Society in Uttar Pradesh during the year 1996-97 and the funds given to them for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) 1237 Swasthya Melas were sanctioned to be organised by States Government & N.G.Os during 1996-97.

(b) to (d) Eight Swasthya Melas were organised in Uttar Pradesh only through N.G.Os at Dahagaon Kekrala

(Badaun), Hardoi, Kiddualwala, Gumaniwala, Tyuni (Dehradun), Kadarchow, (Badeun) & Sultanpur at an expenditure of Rs. 31,42,170/-

(e) From the current financial year Melas are to be organised only by District Branches of Indian Medical Association, Rotary/Lion Club and District Red Cross Society.

These will be organised at a distance less than 25 Kms from the District Headquarter i.e. ideal side for a Mela would be adjoining PHC Campus where surgeries, diagnostic procedures, Lad Test etc. can be easily performed or facilities made available conveniently. These could also be rural hospitals/CHCs/Taluk Hospitals/Block Level hospitals etc.

(f) No Swasthya Mela was organised by these Agencies in U.P. during 1996-97.

[English]

Indian Fishermen

2365. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have expressed serious concern at the tragic loss of life of two Indian fishermen caused due to the firing on an Indian fishing vessel by the Sri Lankan Navy on May 11, 1997;

(b) if so, whether this concern to Colombo was made only after it admitted the occurrence of the tragedy in Sri Lankan waters;

(c) if so, the reactions of the Sri Lankan Government; and

(d) whether any compensation was demanded from the Shri Lankan Government and, if so, to what extent they have agreed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA) : (a) and (b) Yes. Sir. Government's serious concern at the incident of firing on an Indian vessel on May 11, 1997, which led to the unfortunate death of two fishermen, was conveyed by the High Commissioner of India in Sri Lanka to the Sri Lankan Government immediately upon receiving reports about the occurrence of the incident, and before the Sri Lankan Government acknowledged the occurrence of the incident.

(c) and (d) At Government's request, the Sri Lankan Government carried out a detailed investigation into the incident. Following an enquiry, it was conveyed to us, through our High Commission in Colombo, that the fishing vessel had been fired upon only after it had approached Thammanna Naval Base and after it had refused to heed warnings. In view of the circumstances explained by the Government of Sri Lanka, Government have not demanded compensation.

Eye Infection

2366. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether some of the patients who developed severe post operative eye infection at Rajendra Prasad Eye Centre of AIIMS have turned blind;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WALFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) In October 1995, out of 11 cases where in post operative infection developed, in 8 cases the infection was controlled. In 3 cases, the infection could not be controlled and vision could not be restored.

(c) and (d) The matter has been throughly enquired into. However, the source of infection could not be traced. The overall anti-infective measures are being taken care of in adequate manner.

[Translation]

MPLADS

2367. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN :
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received complaints regarding the irregularities in the appropriation of funds under the Member of Parliament Local Areas Development Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the action taken against those who are responsible for such irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOOR): (a) to (c) Some complaints relating to alleged irregularities in the